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ABSTRACT

Information is provided on 14 federal programs providing financial assistance to undergraduate students in universities, colleges, and vocational/technical schools. The programs provide three different types of assistance: grants (or scholarships), loans, and job earnings. Grants and scholarships do not have to be repaid, but loans do. Some of the loan programs have provisions under which part or all of the incurred debt is repaid. Some of the programs provide assistance without regard to the course of study being pursued; others are restricted to certain fields. The following programs are included: Basic Educational Opportunity Grant Program; College Work-Study Program; Guaranteed Student Loan Program; Law Enforcement Education Program--Grants; Law Enforcement Education Program--Loans; National Direct Student Loan Program; Nursing Student Loan Program; Nursing Student Scholarship Program; Social Security Education Benefits; State Student Incentive Grant Program, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program, Veterans' Education Assistance (Post-Korean Veterans); Veterans' Education Assistance (Post-Vietnam Era Veterans)--Contributory Vesting Program; and Veterans' Education Loan Program. For each program, information is provided on eligibility, money available, and contact sources. A list of publications that provide financial aid information is included. (SW)

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GUIDE TO SELECTED FEDERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

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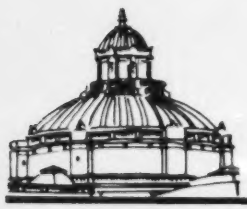

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SUMMARY

The Federal Government provides financial assistance to individuals enrolled in, or accepted for enrollment in institutions of higher education. This assistance flows through many programs and takes the form of loans, grants and work. In this CRS Guide to Selected Federal Assistance Programs for Undergraduate Students, 14 programs, administered by various Federal agencies, are briefly described.

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Preface

This guide serves as an introduction to some of the Federal programs providing financial assistance to undergraduate students in universities, colleges and vocational/technical schools. It is by no means a comprehensive listing of such Federal programs, nor does it describe all of their features. The financial aid office at an institution of higher learning is the most important single source of information on student assistance. No search for assistance is complete without consulting a financial aid officer.

The programs in this guide provide three different types of assistance -- grants (or scholarships), loans and job earnings. It is essential to know that grants (or scholarships) do not have to be repaid, but that loans do. Some of the loan programs described in the following pages have provisions under which part or all of incurred debt is repaid for you.

Your course of study may affect your eligibility for this assistance. Some of the programs in this guide provide assistance without regard to the course of study being pursued; others are restricted to certain courses of study. All of these programs serve undergraduate students.

In the following table, we have classified the programs described in this guide in terms of the type of assistance provided (grants, loans, job earnings) and course of study being pursued (specific, general).

	Type of Assistance	Course of Study
Basic Educational Opportunity Grant Program	Grant	General
College Work-Study Program	Job Earnings	General
Guaranteed Student Loan Program	Loan	General
Law Enforcement Education Program--Grants	Grant	Specific
Law Enforcement Education Program--Loans	Loan	Specific
National Direct Student Loan Program	Loan	General
Nursing Student Loan Program	Loan	Specific
Nursing Student Scholarship Program	Grant	Specific
Social Security Education Benefits	Grant	General
State Student Incentive Grant Program	Grant	General
Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program	Grant	General
Veterans' Education Assistance (Post-Korean Veterans)	Grant	General

	Type of Assistance	Course of Study
Veterans' Education Assistance (Post-Vietnam Era Veterans)--Contributory Vesting Program	Grant*	General
Veterans' Education Loan Program	Loan	General

*Part of this benefit is contributed by recipient.

A prospective student may also want to consider enrolling in a postsecondary institution which offers a cooperative education program. Such a program provides alternate periods of study and work enabling the participating student to earn funds for his or her education and, at the same time, to acquire experience in the world of work. The Federal Government provides support for some cooperative education programs. High school guidance offices may have information on these programs.

For further assistance, a brief list of published sources of information on student assistance programs (Federal, State, local and private) can be found at the end of the guide. These sources also describe assistance for graduate or professional study.

BASIC EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

Who's Eligible: If you are a needy undergraduate student enrolled on at least a part-time basis at a participating college, university or vocational/technical school, you may be eligible for a grant.

How Much You Can Receive: You can receive up to $1,600 per year in the 1978-79 school year. It is estimated that the maximum grant for the 1979-80 school year will be $1,800. Your financial need will determine the actual amount for which you are eligible.

Who to Contact: You can apply for a Basic Grant using one of several different forms. The financial aid office at the school you are or will be attending can tell you which of the forms to file and how to obtain it.

COLLEGE WORK-STUDY PROGRAM

Who's Eligible: If you are a needy undergraduate, graduate or professional student enrolled on at least a half-time basis at a participating college, university or vocational/technical school, you may be eligible to secure a work-study job.

How Much You Can Earn: The amount you can earn is based on your financial need as determined by your school's financial aid office.

Who to Contact: You should contact the financial aid office at the school you are or will be attending to determine if your school participates in the program and if you are eligible for a work-study job.

GUARANTEED STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM

Who's Eligible: If you are an undergraduate, graduate or professional student enrolled on at least a half-time basis at a participating college, university or vocational/technical school, you may be eligible for a loan.

How Much You Can Borrow: You can borrow up to $2,500 per year if you are an undergraduate, but cannot accumulate more than $7,500 in unpaid principal. (You can borrow up to $5,000 per year if you are a graduate or professional student, but cannot accumulate more than $15,000 in unpaid principal (including unpaid principal from amounts borrowed as an undergraduate).) Loans are repaid at a 7% interest rate, beginning 9 to 12 months after you end at least half-time enrollment. The Federal Government will subsidize your interest while you are enrolled. Funds borrowed under this program are lent by banks, credit unions, pension funds, savings and loan associations, some schools and other institutions.

Who to Contact: You should contact the financial aid office at the school you are or will be attending to determine if your school participates in the program and which institutions in your area are lending under the program.

LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM -- GRANTS

Who's Eligible: If you are a full-time professional employee of a publicly-funded police, court, corrections or other law enforcement and criminal justice agency, you may be eligible for a grant. If you are a State or local criminal justice planner or member of a campus police force with authority to enforce criminal statutes, you may also be eligible for a grant. You must be enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, at a participating postsecondary education institution on a part-time or full-time basis, in undergraduate or (graduate degree-creditable) courses in crime-related programs or programs in behavioral, managerial or social sciences.

How Much You Can Receive: You can receive up to $250 per academic quarter or $400 per semester to pay for tuition, mandatory fees and books. The size of these grants depends upon the expenses you incur, not on any assessment of your financial status. If you do not remain in full-time criminal justice employment for two years following enrollment in college, the grant must be repaid with interest.

Who to Contact: You should contact the financial aid office or Criminal Justice Department at the school you are or will be attending to determine if your school participates in the program and if you are eligible for a grant.

LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM -- LOANS

Who's Eligible: If you are enrolled on a full-time basis in an undergraduate or graduate program leading to a degree or certification in a field directly related to law enforcement and employment in a law enforcement agency, you may be eligible for a loan. If you are a full-time teacher, or person preparing for a career as a full-time teacher, of courses related to law enforcement and criminal justice, you may also be eligible for a loan.

How Much You Can Borrow: You can borrow up to $2,200 annually to meet the cost of tuition, mandatory fees and books, without regard to your financial need. Your debt is repayable at 7% interest beginning 9 months after you cease full-time study. You can have your debt canceled for service as a full-time officer or employee of a law enforcement agency, or as a full-time teacher of courses in a crime-related degree program in an eligible collegiate institution.

Who to Contact: You should contact the financial aid office or Criminal Justice Department at the school you are or will be attending to determine if your school participates in the program and if you are eligible for a loan.

NATIONAL DIRECT STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM

Who's Eligible: If you are a needy undergraduate, graduate or professional student enrolled on at least a half-time basis at a participating college, university or vocational/technical school, you may be eligible for a loan.

How Much You Can Borrow: You can borrow up to $2,500 in one year. (If you are a graduate student the aggregate amount borrowed cannot exceed $10,000 (including undergraduate loans).) The aggregate limit is $5,000 for a student who has completed 2 years of study leading to a bachelor's degree and $2,500 for any other student. Loans are repaid at a 3% interest rate, beginning 9 to 12 months after you end at least half-time enrollment. You can have all or part of your debt canceled for certain public service.

Who to Contact: You should contact the financial aid office at the school you are or will be attending to determine if your school participates in the program and if you are eligible for a loan.

NURSING STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM

Who's Eligible: If you are a needy student enrolled on at least a half-time basis at a participating school of nursing, you may be eligible for a loan.

How Much You Can Borrow: You can borrow up to $2,500 a year, but cannot accumulate a debt of more than $10,000 in such loans. Loans are repaid at a 3% interest rate, beginning 9 months after you end at least half-time enrollment. Portions of your debt can be canceled for certain service.

Who to Contact: You should contact the financial aid office at the school you are or will be attending to determine if your school participates in the program and if you are eligible for a loan.

NURSING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Who's Eligible: If you are exceptionally needy and are enrolled on at least a half-time basis at a participating school of nursing, you may be eligible for a scholarship.

How Much You Can Receive: You can receive an amount not to exceed $2,000 per year to meet expenses for tuition, fees, books, equipment and living expenses.

Who to Contact: You should contact the financial aid office at the school you are or will be attending to determine if your school participates in the program and if you are eligible for a scholarship.

SOCIAL SECURITY EDUCATION BENEFITS

Who's Eligible: If you are a full-time student and an unmarried child (aged 18 through 21 or to end of the school term in which age 22 is attained) of a worker who receives Social Security retirement benefits or disability benefits, or who is deceased, you are eligible for these benefits.

How Much You Can Receive: The maximum amount you can receive is based on the earnings record of your disabled, retired or deceased parent.

Who to Contact: The local District Office of the Social Security Administration is to notify you, if you are already receiving other benefits of this program, shortly before your 18th birthday. For further information, you should contact the local District Office of the Social Security Administration.

STATE STUDENT INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM

Who's Eligible: If you are an undergraduate student with substantial financial need enrolled on a full-time basis at a participating school and reside in a participating State, you may be eligible for a grant.

How Much You Can Receive: You can receive up to $1,500 a year depending upon financial need. The average has been about $500, so do not expect to receive the maximum.

Who to Contact: You should contact the financial aid office at the school you are or will be attending, or the board of higher education for the State in which you reside.

SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

Who's Eligible: If you are an exceptionally needy undergraduate student enrolled on at least a half-time basis in a participating college, university or vocational/technical school and would be unable to continue your education without this grant, you may be eligible for assistance.

How Much You Can Receive: You can receive up to $1,500 per year depending upon your need and other factors.

Who to Contact: You should contact the financial aid office at the school you are or will be attending to determine if your school participates in the program and if you are eligible for a grant.

VETERANS' EDUCATION ASSISTANCE
(Post-Korean Veterans)

Who's Eligible: If you are a veteran of the armed forces who served on active duty for a period of more than 180 days, any part of which occurred after January 31, 1955 and January 1, 1977 and will be attending an eligible school on at least a half-time basis, you may be eligible for assistance.

How Much You Can Receive:

The present schedule of education benefits under the Post-Korean GI bill is as follows:

G.I. BILL RATES
(monthly)

	No Dependents	One Dependent	Two Dependents	Each Additional Dependent
Full-time	$311	$370	$422	$26
Three-quarter	233	277	317	19
Half-time	156	185	211	13
Cooperative	251	294	334	19
Apprenticeship--OJT*				
1st 6 mos.	226	254	277	12
2nd 6 mos.	169	192	221	12
3rd 6 mos.	113	141	164	12
4th 6 mos.	56	84	108	12
Farm Cooperative				
Full-time	251	294	334	19
Three-quarter	188	221	251	15
Half-time	126	147	167	10
Active duty; Less than half-time	Tuition cost, not to exceed full-time rate of $311			
Correspondence and flight	90 percent of charges--Monthly entitlement charge--$288.			

*On-the-job training.

Who to Contact: You can contact the veterans' representative or financial aid office at the school you are or will be attending. You can also contact your local Veterans Administration Office.

VETERANS' EDUCATION ASSISTANCE (Post-Vietnam Era Veterans) -- Contributory Vesting Program

Who's Eligible: If you enter the armed forces after December 31, 1976 you can enroll in the contributory vesting program. You can only enroll in this program while you are in the armed forces.

How Much You Can Receive: Upon enrolling in the program you agree to have deducted from your military pay at least $50 a month, but not more than $75. The Veterans Administration will match with $2 every $1 you contribute through the deduction from your pay. Once in the program you must remain in it for at least 12 months. The maximum amount you can contribute while you are in service is $2,700. When you complete your first obligated period of duty or 6 years of duty, you are entitled to monthly payments for education in an amount equal to (1) the amount you contributed to the program, plus (2) the amount contributed for you by the Veterans Administration, divided by (3) the number of months you participated in the program to a maximum of 36 months.

Who to Contact: You can contact the veterans' representative or financial aid office at the school you are or will be attending. You can also contact your local Veterans Administration Office.

VETERANS' EDUCATION LOAN PROGRAM

Who's Eligible: If you are a needy veteran enrolled on at least a half-time basis at an eligible school, you may be eligible for a loan.

How Much You Can Borrow. You can borrow up to $292 times the number of months you are entitled to receive Veterans' Education Assistance, but not in excess of $2,500 a year. Interest charged on loans made after September 30, 1976 will be comparable to, and not exceed the rate charged in the Guaranteed Student Loan Program. No interest accumulates prior to the beginning of the repayment period. Interest and principal are paid during a period of up to 10 years, beginning nine months after you cease half-time study. You can cancel part of your debt if you meet certain requirements.

Who to Contact: You can contact the veterans' representative or financial aid office at the school you are or will be attending. You can also contact your local Veterans Administration Office.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID REFERENCE LIST

Your local library, high school guidance or financial aid office (if you are already attending a postsecondary education institution) will have some of these sources and others as well.

1) Need A Lift? American Legion Education and Scholarship Program. Indianapolis, Indiana.

2) Student Aid Annual. Moravia, New York, Chronicle Guidance Publications, Inc.

3) Student Aid Bulletin: Scholarships, Loans and Awards Offered by Independent and AFL-CIO Affiliated Labor Unions. Moravia, New York, Chronicle Guidance Publications, Inc.

4) Student Aid Bulletin: Scholarships, Loans and Awards Offered by the 50 States, D.C. and P.R. Moravia, New York, Chronicle Guidance Publications, Inc.

5) Barron's Handbook of American College Financial Aid. Woodbury, New York, Barron's Educational Series, Inc.

6) Barron's Handbook of Junior and Community College Financial Aid. Woodbury, New York, Barron's Educational Series, Inc.

7) Financial Aids for Higher Education. Oreon Keeslar. Dubuque, Iowa, William C. Brown Co.

8) Scholarships, Fellowships and Loans. S. N. Feingold. Arlington, Massachusetts, Bellman Publishing Co.